(c) what steps have been proposed to be taken to replenish the greenery of North-Eastern States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) As per State of Forest Report 1993 of Forest Survey of India, forest cover of North Eastern States has declined by 635 Sq. Km. over the assessment made in 1991 report.

(c) Government have taken the following steps to increase the forest cover of North-Eastern States :—

(i) Financial assistance is being provided to State Governments as well as Non-Governmental Organisations to carry out afforestation and protection works in the North-Eastern States.

(ii) North-Eastern council is providing financial assistance to State Governments for various developmental activities including forestry.

(iii) State Governments have been asked to protect forests and take steps for control of shifting cultivation.

(iv) Problems of North-Eastern States are discussed at different levels in the Government and appropriate remedial action taken from time to time.

Census of Tigers and Elephants in Arunachal Pradesh

4562. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the census of Tigers and Elephants has not been taken in Arunachal Pradesh for more than a decade ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dumping of Toxic wastes in the country

4563. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some developed countries are dumping toxic wastes in the country ;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected in the country during the last two years and the names of those countries ; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or proposed to take to check the dumping of such wastes in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) As per the information available no such cases of dumping of toxic wastes have been detected.

(c) Government of India have notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. According to these rules import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal. However, import of such wastes may be allowed for processing or reuse as raw materials, after examining each case on merit.

Wood-based industries in Arunachal Pradesh

4564. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of wood-based industries in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) how much quantity of wood is allocated to each such unit as quota by the State Government ;

(c) how much quantity of wood has been supplied against such quota during the last three years ;

(d) whether it is a fact that other State Governments in the North-Eastern Region have done away with the practice of allocating quota to wood-based industries ;

(e) whether the State of Arunachal Pradesh still continues with the quota system industry where as the arjoing States

are able to meet up their demand by imported wood ;

(f) whether it is a fact that most of the licences and quotas are held by political leaders themselves or by their families ; and

(g) whether Government would consider conservation of forests in this State too and do away with the quota system under the guise of which reckless felling of trees goes in the State in excess of the quota which can well be verified with the production figures of such plywood factories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) As per information provided by State Government, at present, there are 130 wood based industries in Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) Subject to silvicultural availability, in general, annual quota of timber allocated to forest-based industries in the State is given as under :—

S No.	Industry	Timber allocated (in Cu. M.)
1.	Plywood mill	4,000
2.	Saw cum Veneer mill	1,715
3.	Saw mills	Nil

(c) Timber supplied to wood based Industries in the State during the last three years is given as under :—

S. No.	Year	Timber supplied to Industries (in Cu. M.)
1.	1990-91	71,900
2.	1991-92	70,700
3.	1992-93	86,900

(d) and (e) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(f) Licences for wood-based industries are granted on the basis of feasibility studies, entrepreneurship, financial capability and technical expertise available with the applicants. Relationship of some licencees with political leaders of their families cannot be ruled out.

(g) The State Government have informed that their reserve forests, Sanctuaries, National parks and Bio-Sphere reserve etc., which constitute 40% of their total forest area, are covered under working plans prepared on the basis of Scientific forestry principles. More and more areas are being brought under legal protection by notifying them as reserve forests. Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 are being strictly enforced and various schemes of afforestation are being implemented in the State. They have further informed that it is not correct to say that reckless felling is allowed in the State and that strict action is taken against the industries and individuals found involved in illegal felling of trees.

बड़ी बांध परियोजनाओं का डूब-क्षेत्र

4565. **श्री शिव प्रसाद चनपुरिया:** क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में बड़ी बांध परियोजनाओं के डूब-क्षेत्र में कितनी वन भूमि आ रही है;

(ख) क्या डूब-क्षेत्र में आने वाले वृक्षों को काटने के सम्बन्ध में कोई प्रस्ताव है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो वृक्षों के सड़ने से जल को प्रदूषित होने से बचाने तथा उससे मछुआरों के जीवन को उत्पन्न होने वाले खतरों से बचाने के लिये क्या-क्या उपाय करने पर विचार किया जा रहा है;

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के लागू होने के बाद देश में विभिन्न सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के लिये अधिनियम के तहत 1.03 लाख हैक्टेयर वन-भूमि को उपयोग में लाने की मंजूरी दी गई है।